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Proposed Amendments to the Claims
USSN 09/943,369

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Proposed Amendment): A process for preparing a secondary standard for calibrating an instrument for subsequent measurement of an analyte sample, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) mixing one or more viscosity changing polymers and at least one dye;

and

(b) gelling the mixture to form the secondary standard,

Nbc = to some known conc.
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wherein the concentration of the dye is adjusted such that the fluorescent signal of the dye in the secondary standard after gelling the mixture is approximately equal or equal to the fluorescent signal of a known concentration of the dye under the conditions of the analyte sample measurement.

defn of "calibrate" in anal chem.
Claim 18 (Proposed Amendment): A process for preparing a container for calibrating an instrument for subsequent measurement of an analyte sample, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) dispensing one or more viscosity changing polymers and at least one dye into a container to form a mixture; and

(b) gelling the mixture to form a secondary standard,

wherein the concentration of the dye is adjusted such that the fluorescent signal of the dye in the secondary standard after gelling the mixture is approximately equal or equal to the fluorescent

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signal of a known concentration of the dye under the conditions of the analyte sample measurement.

Claim 19 (Original): The process of claim 18, wherein step (a) comprises the steps of:

- (i) mixing the viscosity changing polymers and the dye; and
- (ii) dispensing the mixture into the container.

Claim 20 (Original): The process of claim 18, wherein the viscosity of the viscosity changing polymer being dispensed ranges from about 1 to about 1,000 cP.

Claim 21 (Original): The process of claim 18, wherein the viscosity changing polymer is a pH responsive polymer.

Claim 22 (Original): The process of claim 21, wherein step (b) comprises increasing the pH of the mixture sufficiently to gel the mixture.

Claim 23 (Original): The process of claim 22, wherein the mixture in step (a) has a pH of less than about 4.5 and step (b) comprises increasing the pH to at least about 5.

Claim 24 (Original): The process of claim 22, wherein step (b) comprises diffusing an alkaline gas through the mixture.